



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

No. 119

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. We are honored today to be led in prayer by Bishop Sumoward E. Harris, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Liberia.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Lord be with us. Let us pray.

O Lord our governor, gracious Father, Your glory shines throughout the world. We give You thanks today for this Nation, which You have bountifully blessed in order to be a demonstration of freedom, opportunity, righteousness, truth, and justice for Liberia and the nations of the world.

We commend this Nation to Your merciful care, the lives of citizens and aliens, so that they may be guided by Your providence.

Give the men and women of this honorable Senate the wisdom, the courage, and strength to know Your will and to do it. Help them always to remember that they are called to serve their people through laws they make during this legislative session. Make them to be pure lovers of truth, freedom, justice, and righteousness.

Gracious God, in a time of competing global challenges when faith in You is questioned and threatened, empower the Senators as they seek Your wisdom, vision, and direction so that in all their works begun they will always know that *Righteousness exalts a Nation*.—Proverbs 29:2. Bless the Senators of this great Chamber. Grant them dynamic vision for leadership in this Nation and the world. In Your great mercy sustain them with Your grace for their daily deliberations.

O Lord, I offer this prayer on behalf of the Senators through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill. Yesterday, two amendments were offered and debated during the pendency of the bill. The chairman and ranking member are here this morning and are prepared to work through these amendments as well as additional amendments that will be offered.

I expect a rollcall vote to occur on at least one of those amendments prior to the policy luncheons today. Therefore, Members should anticipate a vote around noon. We will alert all Senators when that vote is scheduled.

As I mentioned, the Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for the policy luncheons. I encourage Members who have amendments to the Labor-HHS bill to contact the managers of that legislation as soon as possible. It would be very helpful to have a list of amendments so that the chairman and ranking member will be able to work through those amendments in an orderly fashion.

I thank all Members as we go forward during the appropriations process. Most Members came back yesterday. We had a very good day and a very productive day with the introduction of those amendments. We are making progress on this very important bill, and I look forward to the participation of all Members.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2660, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2660) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Specter amendment No. 1542, in the nature of a substitute.

Byrd amendment No. 1543 (to amendment No. 1542) to provide additional funding for education for the disadvantaged.

Akaka amendment No. 1544 (to amendment No. 1542) to provide additional funding for the Excellence in Economic Education Act of 2001.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, while the majority leader is in the Chamber, it would be appropriate to comment about the colloquy which the majority leader and I had on August 1, the last day of session before the August recess. As the majority leader stated, this bill would be the first matter taken up on September 2, which we did take up, and gave everyone notice.

I made the comment at that time about the problems I have observed with quorum calls taking up so much time, and I stated that it was my hope as manager—and which was concurred in by my distinguished ranking member, Senator HARKIN—that we would have amendments prepared to go. We got off to a start yesterday with two

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S10991